



MDL MARINAS



News Release

For Immediate Release

18 September 2025

MDL Marinas celebrates 40th anniversary of iconic Hythe Marina Village

MDL Marinas is proud to mark the 40th anniversary of Hythe Marina Village, the UK's first purpose-built marina village, with a weekend of celebrations on 20–21 September 2025.

A landmark development when it opened in 1985, Hythe Marina Village remains one of MDL's flagship locations. Situated on the western shore of Southampton Water, it offers a unique combination of a 206-berth marina, vibrant waterside homes, restaurants, shops and a boutique hotel.

Inspired by Port Grimaud on the Côte d'Azur, Hythe Marina Village was a pioneering concept in the UK, combining luxury waterside living with first-class boating facilities. The development was officially launched on 4 December 1984, when Sir Christopher Cockerell, inventor of the hovercraft, laid the first brick.

Its gala opening the following year attracted national headlines when the first boats through its lock included actor Arthur Lowe's Edwardian steam yacht *Amazon* and Richard Branson's record-breaking speed boat *Atlantic Challenger*. Hythe Marina Village also featured prominently as one of the filming locations for the BBC drama *Howards' Way*, showcasing its marina facilities and adding to the glamour of the series.

"Hythe Marina Village is a signature development in MDL's portfolio and a true icon of British marina design," says Tim Mayer, MDL's Sales and Marketing Director. "When it opened 40 years ago, it redefined what a marina could be. Today, it's not only a destination for boaters but a thriving community and lifestyle hub. We're delighted to celebrate this milestone with our berth holders, residents and the local community who have all played such a vital role in its success."

Celebratory events

As part of the anniversary celebrations, Hythe Marina Association is organising two special community events. The celebrations begin with a Hog Roast on Saturday 20 September, a



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ticketed evening event for residents, before culminating in the weekend's highlight – a Sail Past Spectacular on Sunday 21 September.

From 11am to 4pm, a colourful parade of boats will set out in convoy from Hythe Marina, sailing a buoyed course in Southampton Water. With vessels dressed in style, live commentary, prizes, food and drink stalls, and live music, it promises a vibrant day by the water for all ages.

“It’s a privilege to manage such a unique and historic marina, where boating and community come together in such a special way,” says Debbie Scott, Marina Manager at Hythe Marina Village. “The 40th anniversary is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the marina’s incredible history while looking forward to the next chapter. We can’t wait to celebrate with our berth holders, residents and visitors.”

With easy access to the Solent, exceptional boatyard facilities and a rich blend of dining and leisure options including The Boathouse and Indian Kitchen, Hythe Marina Village continues to deliver an unrivalled marina lifestyle four decades on.

For more information on MDL’s Hythe Marina, including its wealth of facilities and services, visit www.hythemarinavillage.co.uk

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Notes for editors:

MDL Marinas Group Ltd

- MDL Marinas Group is one of the UK’s leading marina and water-based leisure provider and one of Europe’s largest marina groups, offering members over 160 destinations to cruise to in the UK, France and Spain. Currently MDL Marinas manages 18 UK marinas and one in Spain.
- MDL Holidays is part of the MDL Marinas Group, offering waterside holidays in luxury lodge and holiday park accommodation.
- New to the MDL Marinas Group, MDL Fitness is a range of green gyms where the fitness equipment converts human kinetic energy into electricity.
- MDL Marinas Group is proud to be landlords to over 500 marine businesses, with over 260 staff delivering the unique MDL experience to all berth holders, visitors and commercial partners.
- For more information visit www.mdlmarinas.co.uk



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